

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 AGR-20 SS-20 NSC-07 SPC-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 PC-10 INT-08 COME-00 ACDA-19 EUR-25 EB-11

SWF-02 /240 W

----- 078881

R 251125Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1737

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 332

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO ECON

SUBJ: DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SOMALIA

REF: A. STATE 057894; B. MOGADISCIO 0356

1. JUDGMENT OF EMBASSY IN REF B OF MARCH 11 STILL HOLDS. BY LOCAL STANDARDS OF ARID COUNTRY, THERE IS NOT NOW A DROUGHT SITUATION IN SOMALIA. RAINS IN 1973 WERE LIGHT, BUT COMBINED WITH HEAVY RAINS IN 1972 MADE NORMAL WATER SUPPLY FOR TWO YEAR PERIOD AS A WHOLE. IF THERE IS SERIOUS FAILURE THIS YEAR OF SPRING RAINS DUE SOON (APRIL-JUNE), THEN DROUGHT PROBLEM MIGHT DEVELOP.

2. WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF MINERALS AND WATER RESOURCES ON ANOTHER MATTER MARCH 23, HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE DROUGHT, NOTING THAT U.S. COULD OFTEN BE HELPFUL IN SUCH A SITUATION. MINISTER SAID RAIN REPORTS

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CAME FIRST TO HIS DEPARTMENT, AND HE WOULD LET US KNOW IF HE

SAW EMERGENCY DEVELOPING. HE CHARACTERIZED THE CURRENT DRY SEASON AS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT, BUT NOT AN EMERGENCY; AND REMARKED THAT SOME RAIN HAD RECENTLY FALLEN IN DRIEST AREA OF UPPER JUBA (I.E., IN SOUTH NEAR KENYA/ETHIOPIA BORDER).

3. BELIEVE GSDR HAS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH COUNTRY-SIDE TO AVOID BEING TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY MAJOR DROUGHT PROBLEM. GSDR HAS CRITICIZED ETHIOPIA FOR "HIDING" DROUGHT, AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT WANT TO RISK CRITICISM FOR DOING THE SAME. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE INQUIRIES WITH GSDR, UN (WHICH HAS CAPABLE FOOD REPRESENTATIVES IN COUNTRY), AND ANY OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCES; AND WILL LET DEPARTMENT KNOW IF ANY SERIOUS DANGER SIGNALS APPEAR.

KIRK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, WATER, DROUGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MOGADI00427  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740063-0831  
**From:** MOGADISCIO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740318/aaaaaqmr.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. STATE 057894; B. MOGADISCIO 0356  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** ECON, EAID, SO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005